

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
March 20, 1980

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on March 20, 1980 at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room, 1006 First National Building, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

E. W. Wehman, Chairman
Henry Turney, Vice Chairman
Joe Antilley, Member
Frank Gray, Member
Albert Roach, Member

Staff members present were:

A. C. Spencer, Executive Director
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs
James Moore, Engineer
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor

Others present were:

George Marks, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. Clarence Richardson, Science & Education Administration
Tom Remaley, Texas Department of Water Resources
Albert Gray, Sabine River Authority
Jack Tatum, Sabine River Authority
Greg Haynes, Sabine River Authority

Chairman Wehman called the meeting to order.

Since each Board member received by mail a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on February 11 and 12, 1980, and there being no changes, on motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Henry Turney, the minutes were approved without being read.

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the following district directors:

N. M. Saunders - Highland SWCD # 210
Calvin Felts - Fannin SWCD # 520

Information received per phone call on appointments of district directors Dennis Seidenberger and Hubert Frerich to serve on the North Concho Soil and Water Conservation District # 208 was reviewed. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the appointments pending receipt of qualification papers.

A petition was received on March 6, 1980 for the inclusion of 7,977 acres of land in Real County to the Upper Nueces Soil and Water Conservation District # 238. Based on the fact it involved only one landowner's request, no public hearing was held; therefore, on motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board determined a need to approve the inclusion of this territory and that the inclusion is practicable and feasible.

Items concerning the Resource Conservation Act were discussed. The Board as agreed upon in a special meeting on February 11 and 12, 1980 signed the position paper on policy objectives, alternative strategies and recommendations on the program development. Documentation will be mailed to USDA Response Analysis Center in Athens, Ga.

Clyde Gottschalk presented a TV film documentation carried out in the State of Nebraska with funding from PL 92-500, Section 208 grant money and RCA grant money showing the planning and promotion of district programs on TV. Facts and figures on cost taken into consideration, the Board agreed that cost of equipment and personnel to properly handle this type of program was not justifiable for us at this time.

Reports were given on the three RCA meetings held in Lubbock, San Antonio and Arlington, Texas. Comments indicated interest in a volunteer cost-share program.

The State plan development was discussed. We are in the process of drafting questionnaire forms to be sent to soil and water conservation districts to compile information to identify soil and water conservation problems,

determine resource availability, future needs, and determine effective means to solve conservation problems. The effort will be coordinated with Soil Conservation Service personnel and our staff to better clarify to districts what we are trying to accomplish.

James Moore gave a status report on 208 planning activities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. A monitoring program is underway to evaluate the impact of agricultural activities on water quality. Omar Garza, field representative was appointed to the 208 Planning Advisory Committee.

James Moore reported on a meeting with the Texas Department of Water Resources and the Sabine River Authority concerning our 208 contract with TDWR. Contract deadlines were discussed along with project coordination and the possibility of using some of our 208 grant funds for monitoring and public participation. Bob Buckley and representatives of the Sabine River Authority discussed the possibility of modifying our 208 contract to allow funds to be used by the Sabine River Authority for monitoring. The Board agreed with the concept but decided not to act on the matter until the Sabine River Authority could give a detailed proposal on the matter.

Bob Buckley reported on a tour conducted by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in the Lake Fork Creek Special Water Quality Project area and in critically eroding areas of Lamar County.

James Moore reported on a meeting with Environmental Protection Agency representatives concerning our role in 208 planning and the future of 208 planning. Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board policy on 208 was explained to the EPA representatives and they left understanding the Board's position on 208.

James Moore distributed and discussed final regulations on the ASCS Rural Clean Water Program.

The Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors to be held in San Antonio September 29, 30 and October 1, 1980 was discussed.

The Board agreed to have a steering committee consisting of E. W. Wehman, Henry Turney, Hermon Petty, President of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Dick Schendel, Area III Association Director; Carl Spencer and other staff members meet in San Antonio on April 18, 1980 at 10:00 a.m. at the Marriott Hotel to assess facilities and begin planning the program.

The Board discussed the Governor's Employment Reduction Resolution. It was carefully reviewed and given due consideration. The Board will continue to evaluate personnel needs to operate an effective soil and water conservation program.

Mr. Spencer reported that a letter was received from Senator John Melcher of Montana stating that the Great Plains Conservation program should have no trouble passing the senate.

A joint letter was received from the Lamar Soil and Water Conservation District and the Fannin Soil and Water Conservation District requesting the withdrawal of the Sanders Creek watershed application for assistance under Public Law 83-566. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board agreed to honor the request.

Several government entities have been considering funding availability for soil surveys. State agencies have expressed the need for soil surveys. After a lengthy discussion the Board agreed that it would include soil surveys as a line item in the budget if other agencies would support it at our budget hearings.

The Board discussed preliminary budget estimates for the 1982-83 biennium. Instructions for the preparation of the budget had not been received but the Board reviewed our present budget expenditures to determine our future needs.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on

May 15, 1980.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

E. N. Nelson Sr
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

May 1, 1980
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on March 20, 1980.

May 1, 1980
Date

G. F. Rencer
Executive Director